
REPORT OF AGENT FOR UINTA AND OURAY AGENCY.

WHITEROCKS, UTAH, *August 21, 1906.*

The agency proper is located in Uinta County, on a reserve comprising approximately 2,400 acres, between the Uinta and Whiterocks rivers, at a point some 14 miles in a northwesterly direction from the military post of Fort Duchesne. The subagency is located at Ouray, Uinta County, Utah, at a distance of 34 miles from the agency proper, at the junction of the Duchesne and Green rivers.

There are now under charge of the agency about 1,250 Indians, all of whom have been allotted land, mostly in the vicinity of and contiguous to the several agencies, but in some cases lying remotely therefrom. The country covered by allotments extends over an area some 150 miles in length by 40 miles in width, thereby increasing the difficulty attending the proper supervision of these allotments, the time incident to covering the distance between the more remote of these allotments and the agency being considerable. The agency has supervision over the affairs of the Uinta, White River, and Uncompahgre Ute, the Uinta and White River being located in the vicinity of the agency proper at Whiterocks, and the Uncompahgre along the lower Duchesne River and in the section along White River and its smaller tributaries.

During the greater part of the fiscal year which has just expired these Indians have experienced many changes incident to the allotment of land in severalty and the subsequent opening to settlement of the reservation. In their

past history they have encountered many experiences in changes from one location to another, and they have doubtless had many grievances as well as approbations. In the past, however, they have been treated as a tribe, with tribal relations, and have been maintained within reservations, while now this is bringing radical changes in the conditions affecting their daily life.

Since the opening of the reservation on August 28, 1905, these Indians have, however, been brought out of their seclusion and thrown in contact with the white man; and, as a result of the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States, they have become full citizens, with all the rights, privileges, and immunities thereof.

As a result of these changes much discontentment has arisen, a condition not wholly unexpected, but one which should be understood as arising in the very nature of the case from the radical changes which have taken place. Such discontentment is but natural and to be expected; and white men under similar conditions would, in all probability, put forth as many or more complaints than the Indians themselves.

This dissatisfaction among the Indians at first manifested itself in open antagonism and threatened hostility, but later it became evident that an idea of leaving the country entirely was being agitated among them. Early in the spring of the present year this idea had gained considerable headway, and about 300 of the Indians, men, women, and children, started away with the avowed determination of going to the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. Many of these Indians were advised against their contemplated action and explained that they would probably meet with many hardships if they persisted in their course. A few were in this way persuaded to remain at home, but the larger portion of those who started were still persistent in their desire to continue their journey. It is believed, however, that practically all of them will return to their homes in the fall and early winter, and, while their departure can not be considered but unfortunate, it is thought that upon their return they will be more contented than before leaving.

While, as a result of the opening of the country to settlement, the Indians have been placed in a position to profit by association with the whites, much detriment has been encountered, due to their having learned of the demand which exists among the settlers for all classes of supplies. Everything salable which the law permits to be sold is offered by the Indians to these parties, in many cases for very much less than the actual value, with the result that many Indians who heretofore have worked fairly well are now living in idleness, being subsisted upon the revenues obtained from such sales. One commodity which has been an exceptional factor in unsettling the Indians in their work has been the Indian pony, large numbers of which run wild over the country. The Indians having learned that these ponies were salable for from \$5 to \$10 apiece, have given their entire time to rounding them up and disposing of them to prospective horse buyers. There is but one solution to this question, and that is to get rid of the ponies. Their sale can not be entirely prevented as long as they remain in the country, and inasmuch as they are worthless for domestic purposes it is believed that until they are exterminated they will be a detriment rather than a benefit to the Indians.

One of the most deterrent influences which has been operating against the Indian is the sale of intoxicating liquors among them. Large numbers of irresponsible parties have filled the country since the opening, having learned of the Supreme Court decision in the case of *United States v. Neff*, and have gained an idea that they may sell intoxicants to Indians without fear of the law; and before this idea could be dispelled a large number of these worthless persons began the business of "boot legging," and have been openly selling to any Indian who might apply for some class of intoxicant. Fortunately, however, the laws of the State of Utah prohibit the sale of intoxicants to Indians, and the county officials have been taking action wherever possible to enforce the laws. Much difficulty is had in obtaining evidence of Indians in actions against these irresponsible white persons, the Indians being desirous rather of protecting the persons from whom they have obtained liquor than of furnishing evidence to the county officials upon which to obtain conviction.

All Indians under the agency have been allotted land and have received trust patents therefor. Of these allotments, about 300 were made in 1898 on the basis of 320 acres to each head of a family and 160 acres to all others excepting wives. Of the one thousand-odd allotments made during the past year, all were allotted on the basis of 80 acres to the head of a family and 40 acres to every other Indian. But little time was had in which to make these allotments and various and sundry difficulties were encountered in the work. The allot-

ment work was, however, completed some time prior to the opening of the reservation, and it is believed that justice has been done to every Indian with respect to the character of the land selected for him, especial effort having been made to obtain good agricultural land in each case.

Approved applications for the appropriation of water for all allotments have been obtained from the State engineer of Utah, and it now remains to apply the water to the land within the time limit prescribed by law. At present this limit is placed at two and one-half years from the time specified by the State engineer, being six months after the date of approval of all applications. This period is woefully short; in fact, if it be not extended the water can not be put on the land within the specified time. It is, however, hoped that the State engineer's office will be prevailed upon to extend the period so that at least five years will be had in which to complete the construction of the canal system, and the subsequent cultivation of the lands necessary to the beneficial use of the water. It is estimated by the chief engineer of the Interior Department in charge of irrigation that the sum of \$600,000 will be required to complete the construction of all canals necessary for the irrigation of all allotments. Of this amount, the sum of \$125,000 was appropriated by the last Congress and the expenditure of this money is now being carried on under the direction of the chief engineer. It is hoped that continued appropriations will be had from time to time in such amounts as will be sufficient to carry on the work without hindrance and that the entire system of canals may be completed within a period of three years.

In order to perfect the water rights of the Indians for which approved applications have been obtained, beneficial use of such water will have to be made within the prescribed time limit. To this end, it will be necessary to make the most persistent efforts in causing all land to be cultivated. I believe under changed conditions Indians will generally do more toward the cultivation of their allotments than heretofore. On the other hand, there are very many incapacitates who can not make proper use of their allotments by cultivating them, leaving but one course open, and that is to lease all surplus lands at a very reasonable figure. These lands are now being leased in small quantities and it is expected that, within the year, a large amount of land will be handled in this manner. Should it become apparent, however, that the entire acreage of the surplus allotments can not be leased within a period of five years, some method will have to be devised by which lessees may be brought into the country. As a last resort I believe it would be desirable to let leases on allotments at a merely nominal sum, with a proviso that the land be fenced and improvements put thereon.

Tracts of land aggregating approximately 250,000 acres have been reserved for grazing purposes for Indians. These tracts comprise large bodies of the very best grazing land in the country, and are so located with respect to the Indians that they may readily and with facility graze their cattle thereon. At present the Indians own some two thousand head of cattle, and they are handling their herds in a creditable manner. With proper supervision it is believed that the cattle interests of the Indians can be increased many-fold, and it is my desire to give them every assistance consistent with the interest manifested by them to the end that they may raise cattle with profit rather than otherwise. It is believed that these lands should be held for the Indians for a considerable length of time in order that it may be demonstrated whether the holding of such tracts of land is beneficial or detrimental to the Indians. Any policy tending to restore any portion of these grazing lands to the public domain should be opposed until such time as it shall be demonstrated as to whether or not the holding of the grazing land is a benefit or a detriment. It is realized that in the early future various parties will undoubtedly become interested in the matter of having these lands restored to the public domain, and inasmuch as the tracts contain practically no agricultural land it is just as valuable to the Indian as to the white cattlemen.

The Indian population is enumerated herewith, as follows:

Uinta Utes:	
Males -----	240
Females -----	195
Total -----	435

Uinta Utes—Continued.

Males over 18 years	154
Females over 14 years	120
School children between the ages of 6 and 16 years	78

White River Utes:

Males	184
Females	133

Total	317
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Males over 18 years	127
Females over 14 years	90
School children between the ages of 6 and 16 years	62

Uncompahgre Utes:

Males	236
Females	257

Total	493
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Males over 18 years	169
Females over 14 years	173
School children between the ages of 6 and 16 years	85

C. G. HALL,

Captain, U. S. Army, Acting Indian Agent.

REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT OF UINTA SCHOOL.

WHITEROCKS, UTAH, August 17, 1906.

The enrollment for the past year does not show as large an attendance as that of previous years. The actual capacity of this plant is 67 pupils, and when that limit was reached, we made no more effort to enroll others. The enrollment at times was 72 pupils, and the average for the year was 67. Those who were found to be in any way tubercular were sent home, leaving only the absolutely healthy pupils, which resulted in a record of no deaths and but very little sickness during the whole year. The plant was put in thoroly sanitary condition before school work was begun last September, which, perhaps, together with the exclusion of unhealthy children, gave us our freedom from sickness.

The force of employees has, in general, been good. The few changes made have worked no hardship on the school. The class-room work was carried on in a very satisfactory manner. The regular literary instruction was supplemented by basketry during the winter months and gardening in the spring, both of which aroused great interest in the pupils. The garden made and cared for by the pupils was a success in every particular. The lessons developed from the preparing of the soil, planting the seeds, watering, and cultivating furnished the classes with a welcome diversion from books. The industrial work was carried on very successfully in all the departments. The girls have had careful training in all their work and take great interest in keeping themselves neatly dressed. The boys, while more careless than the girls, have done very well in their work.

The school farm, while limited in area, has produced wonderfully of potatoes and vegetables, as well as hay. Late frosts and hail have done some damage to growing crops. We have a very good pasture, and our herd of milch cows has done exceptionally well in milk production. This plant is admirably situated for dairy products. The farm on the new school reserve, 12 miles distant, will, in a few years, produce hay for all school stock.

The plant is in fairly good condition, but too small if even half the scholastic population is put in school. The hostility of a greater part of these Indians toward the school is so marked that it is only with great effort the pupils are secured. A very few parents will consent to the transfer of their children to larger schools.

In conclusion I will say that while it is difficult to maintain attendance, the school has made progress in many ways during the year.

OSCAR M. WADDELL, Superintendent.